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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லும்போது ' இல்லை. ' என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் அதற்காக சூப்ரவைஸர்கள் எல்லாம் வந்து சர்வே செய்து எஸ்டிமேட் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியிருந்தும் இம்மாதிரி ' இல்லை ' என்று பதில் சொல்வதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன ? அதைச் செய்யும் உத்தேசம் சர்க்காருக்கு இல்லையா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, my information here is that the Superintending Engineer (Food Production) has reported that the scheme for the renovation of the Ramachandra tank was not actually investigated; only preliminary survey by the Food Production Engineering staff was made which showed that an extent of 87 acres could be irrigated at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1,82,000 and that the scheme would involve the acquisition of the entire tank-bed measuring about 100 acres in extent of costly dry land. The proposal was therefore given up as not being a fit case for investigation."

Extent of lands reserved for Harijans in Wynaad

* 2118 *Q.*—SRI O. KORAN (on behalf of SRI C. Velukkan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of lands reserved for Harijans in Wynaad, Malabar;

(*b*) the number of Harijan families so far settled there;

(*c*) whether any non-Harijans have trespassed on the land reserved for Harijans; and

(*d*) if so, what action the Government have taken to evict them?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) No land has been reserved for Harijans in Wynaad taluk.

" (*b*) No Harijan families have so far been settled on Government lands.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Does not arise."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since Wynaad is a land of Harijans as it were and lot of Government lands are available, can the Government seriously and immediately consider the question of settling the Harijans on those lands? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There are about 600 families The matter is being considered by the Government, and such steps as may be necessary may be taken as early as possible."

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Sri O. KORAN :—" May I know whether the Government have received complaints from Harijans in Wynaad that lands occupied by them are being trespassed by influential landlords who have their lands nearby and if so what action the Government have taken in the matter? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A report has been called for from the Collector of Malabar, Sir."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are Government aware of the fact that these Harijans who are at present living in the house-sites of big landlords are compelled to work free and as a result there is a system of slavery? Will the Government see that the fetters of that slavery system are broken up by giving these Harijans house-sites at Government cost immediately? " 9–10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I do not know whether there is a system like slavery system existing there. But at any rate social workers will have to go there and do lot of propaganda. Whatever steps the Government can take, those steps are being taken."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon. Minister said that he was not aware of the fact whether such a system of slavery was in existence in that part of the State. I submit that that system is in existence in the sense that when these Harijans live in the houses constructed by the landlords, these slaves, the Harijans are compelled to work only for that landlord as a result of which the general wages that is earned by the workers in other places are not given to them. It is made obligatory on the part of these Harijans to work only for those landlords in whose houses they live. In that scheme I say there is this slavery system."

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Harijans are working on the lands of the landlords and I do not think there is anything like slavery system. I do not understand what the hon. Member means by slavery. Perhaps the wages paid may not be adequate for the services rendered by them."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has said he is not aware of such a system prevailing there . . ."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" My point is this, Sir. When Raman, a Harijan lives in the house constructed by his landlord and when Krishnan, Kannan, other Harijans living in Wynaad get Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 as wages for the work done by them, this particular Raman cannot go to another man to work and earn that much of amount. If he goes, he will be evicted. If he goes he will not be treated as a tenant of that particular landlord. In that sense I say there is that system of slavery."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" It is not a point of explanation."